

ties have bent all their efforts in the last few days to put the coast in the neighborhood of Venice in a state of defence against an attack by sea. Big guns have been mounted on the mainland between Lido and San Pietro, a distance of six and a half miles, to make an effective reply to the guns of the Austrian fleet which may make a dash across the Adriatic from its base at Pola even before a declaration of war is made.

Owing to the recent order forbidding all reference in the press to military and naval movements absolutely nothing is known by the public regarding the whereabouts of the Italian fleet. Before the order was issued the fleet was concentrated at Taranto, near the entrance to the Adriatic. Since then the authorities have not allowed a word to leak out.

The censor passed today for publication a despatch stating that an Austrian vessel laden with contraband of war was stopped by an Italian torpedo boat after putting to sea from Venice and taken back to port. It is known that torpedo boats are guarding the ports of Venice and Genoa to prevent the departure of interned German and Austrian vessels.

Another report which, however, lacks confirmation, says the Naples authorities seized a Greek vessel laden with 2,000 tons of rice bound for an Austrian port.

ITALIAN ARMY READY.

Big Force Massed for Dash Across Austrian Frontier.

GENOVA, May 21.—A large portion of the Italian army is reported to be massed on the plains of the Italian Friuli, at the head of the Adriatic, apparently in readiness for a dash over the eastern border into Austria. The troops are held back with difficulty by their officers, who are awaiting the action of the Government.

Sixty thousand of the forces in this district are Alpine troops, commanded by officers picked for their knowledge of the mountains and their ability to advance from San Giorgio, Palmanova and Cormons toward Gorizia, Gradisca and Monfalcone, with Trieste as their ultimate objective. The Italian army, however, is being held back by the probable action of the decisive moves in this part of the campaign.

Meanwhile Alpine troops with mounted artillery, operating from Mount Coglio in the Carso range, would have the task of checking any Austrian attempt at a bank attack. Many believe that the waters of the Isonzo over the Friuli for irrigation purposes. It is reported that the Austrians have threatened to flood the plain by the use of these canals, but Italian experts doubt the practicability of the scheme.

CALL ITALY TRAITOR.

German Editors Say War Move Is Treacherous to Alliance.

AMSTERDAM, via London, May 21.—The *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* says that after the Italian declaration of war, the Italian Minister, former Italian Foreign Minister, it became increasingly clear that strong forces were at work in Rome to secure special advantages from Austria-Hungary in exchange for the maintenance of neutrality. As a result of this, the organ says, Germany made every effort to bring about a friendly agreement between the two countries, but from the beginning Italy made negotiations difficult by insisting that territorial concessions should take effect immediately.

After commenting on the considerably extended promises made by Austria on May 11 and read by the Imperial Chamber in the Reichstag on May 18, the paper says: "No Green Book can alter the fact that if Italy takes up arms against her previous allies she will be guilty of a breach of faith and trust and will be acting in order to gain increased power which was offered the Italian people with all possible guarantees voluntarily and in exchange for the maintenance of neutrality. As a result of this, the organ says, Germany made every effort to bring about a friendly agreement between the two countries, but from the beginning Italy made negotiations difficult by insisting that territorial concessions should take effect immediately."

VON BUELOW SNUBBED.

"Thought You Had Left," Salazar's Reply to German Envoy.

CHICAGO, via London, May 21.—Among the stories related here today by refugees from Rome is one to the effect that Prince von Bülow requested an interview early yesterday with Premier Salazar. The Premier pencilled a refusal, concluding with the words: "I thought you had left Italy."

WELCOME OLD ALLY.

French eager to join Italians and fight Austria as of old.

PARIS, May 21.—The Paris press is overjoyed at the prospect of the old allies, France and Italy, fighting again together against Austria. The newspapers hail the vote in the Chamber of Deputies as a victory for the Italian people against the intrigues of Giotelli and an evidence of the failure of German diplomacy.

According to a news agency despatch from Rome the two Napoleon princes, Victor and Louis, who are barred from service in the French army as they belong to a reigning family, have been applied to the Italian Ministry of War for permission to serve in the Italian army. Prince Alfonso, brother of the late King of Portugal, has also applied for permission to serve Italy.

A notice was posted at the Italian Embassy here today announcing that amnesty will be granted to all Italian soldiers who failed to perform their military service provided they return to Italy by June 7, if they reside in Europe, or August 7, if they are in the United States.

Despatches from Trieste say that all Italian males between the ages of 17 and 60 now in the Austrian coast lands are being placed in detention camps by the Austrian authorities. The German authorities are said to be placing all kinds of obstacles in the way of the 20,000 or more Italians in Germany who desire to go home through Switzerland.

A despatch from Geneva says an ultimatum will be sent by Italy to Austria to-night and a declaration will be made before Sunday.

MAY ACT FOR AUSTRIA.

German Opposition to U. S. Diplomatic Courtesy Is Doubtful.

WASHINGTON, May 21.—The German Embassy was advised today that the Government of Switzerland has been invited by Germany to assume charge of the German interests in the event of Italy entering the war.

Reports from Rome that Prince von Bülow, the German representative here, has urged his Government to disavow Austria from turning over her interests to the United States in the event of war with Italy are discredited in German quarters here.

The State Department is maintaining absolute silence on the question.

Russia Threatens to Flank Invaders' Left

Drives German Forces Back From Opatow and Begins Move That Menaces Communications—Tentons Not Checked in Their General Advance.

3,000,000 SHELLS EXPLODED TO CROSS THE SAN

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

LONDON, May 21.—In the face of the tremendous Austro-German drive toward Galicia, the Russian army is shining for the Russians to-day.

While the Teutonic allies have crossed the San and their overwhelming artillery superiority has been reaching the stage when it can be said the Teutons have been checked in their general movement.

In the meantime the Germans and Austrians continue to use with crushing effect their enormous artillery, against which the Russians are virtually powerless.

Despatches from Petrograd report that in order to cross the enemy expended between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 shells, and in one small area had 400 heavy field guns at work. It gave them a twenty-five mile sector of the 100 miles between Peremyel and Sandomir and it establishes them now safely in their positions.

The Russian official report this afternoon declares that all this advance has been won at an enormous cost in human lives by the Austrians and Germans. This statement is as follows:

In the fighting of the last three weeks, since the beginning of the operations of the enemy in the Carpathians, their losses on May 10, May 11, May 12 and May 13, during which the fighting lost some of its intensity, averaged 10,000 a day. On the other hand, the Russian losses were much heavier, especially during the period between May 16 and May 19, when they amounted to several tens of thousands.

Certain regiments of the enemy have been reduced to a single company. Their total losses during this period, including 40,000 prisoners captured by us, have undoubtedly reached to one-fourth or perhaps one-third of their total strength.

The score of guns lost by the enemy is nothing compared with their total number, but it must be borne in mind that owing to lack of horses and the scarcity of projectiles, the Austrians have been unable to use their guns during this period—the enemy being behind on old positions several hundred yards. This circumstance has helped to equalize the odds, which were in favor of the enemy.

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VIENNA, via Amsterdam, May 21.—

LORETTE HEIGHTS SWEEP CLEAR BY FRENCH TROOPS

Six Months Fighting Ends With Germans Driven From Five Spurs.

SPECIAL CABLE DESPATCH TO THE SUN.

PARIS, May 21.—The task of clearing the remaining positions of the Germans on the heights of Lorette was completed by the French forces to-day, with the result that the entire heights, with the centre of violent fighting for the past six months, are now in the possession of the French.

The last stage of the struggle to get control of this German position was begun last night, when a severe artillery duel took place over a whole sector north of Arras. Better weather prevailed today than for days past and the French took advantage of the improvement in conditions by making an attack on the slopes south of Notre Dame de Lorette, where the Germans still held a foothold on five spurs, particularly at a point known as La Blanche Voie, on the crest of the heights. The attack was carried out, with the silence of the German machine-guns which had been sweeping the plateau from this point, the French were able to make further progress, retaking a part of Ablain St. Nazaire.

A German attack north of Ypres made last night was checked with severe losses.

The night communiqué was as follows:

Supplementary reports emphasize the importance of the check suffered by the Germans in the course of the night of May 20-21. The number of prisoners taken by us is at least 150. We have taken several bombs throwing guns and a number of German dead were counted on the field.

The weather having become better, our troops delivered an attack on the slopes south of Notre Dame de Lorette and obtained brilliant results. They captured the German works known as La Blanche Voie, situated on the crest of the heights. The attack was carried out with the silence of the German machine-guns which had been sweeping the plateau from this point, the French were able to make further progress, retaking a part of Ablain St. Nazaire.

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